HF Happenings

The Leap Year Challenge

You are invited to take part in the Leap Year Challenge on Monday 29 February 2016 and make as many contacts as you can on this day. The challenge starts at 00:01 and ends at 23:59 CAT all modes, all bands. Work a station once only regardless of band, mode or call sign.

Submit your log by midnight on Wednesday 2 March 2016 by e-mail to zs4bfn@mweb.co.za. The log received with the most QSOs will win a SARL membership for 2016/2017. If you do not take part, you will have to wait until 2020, the next leap year, to put the date 29 February into your logbook!

The Results of the 2016 Pears National VHF and UHF Contest

Although the weather conditions were not very favourable in some parts of the country, nevertheless, at least 32 logs were submitted reflecting around seven hundred contacts, a lot more than last year. Divisions 2, 4, 5, 6 and V5 participated in the contest on the five VHF/UHF bands and for the first time used all six categories. This year the field stations triumphed from their high sites. **The old problem persists and that is the reluctance of many participants to make the effort to submit log sheets.** PEARS would like to express their sincere thanks to all those who sent in logs and hopefully enjoyed the contest.

Grand overall analogue winner:
1st Terence van der Linden, ZS2VDL, 82 075 points
2nd Allan Bowles, ZS2BO, 70 021 points
3rd Alex Gogos, ZR2T, 56 784 points

Longest distance on Analogue
144 MHz: Terry Flanagan, ZS2ABB, and Dave Jones, ZS5DJ, - 569 km

Grand overall digital winner:
1st Andre Botes, ZS2ACP, 24 112 points
2nd, Lee Hanegraaf, ZS5LEE, 7 980 points.
3rd Andre van Deventer, ZS2BK, 6 192 points.

Longest distance on Digital
50 MHz: Pieter Jacobs, V51PJ, and Andre Botes, ZS2ACP, 1 086 km
70 MHz: Pieter Jacobs, V51PJ, and Andre Botes, ZS2ACP, 1 086 km
144 MHz: Pieter Jacobs, V51PJ, and Andre van Deventer, ZS2BK, 1 083 km

Divisional analogue winners:

Division 1: No logs received this year.
Division 2: Terence van der Linden, ZS2VDL, 82 075 points
Division 4: Rickus de Lange, ZS4A, 46 344 points
Division 5: Dave Jones, ZS5DJ, 15 300 points
Division 6: Carl Minne, ZS6CBQ, 42 007 points

Limited category:
Winner: Barry Nugent, ZS2NF, 2 460 points

Rover category:
1st Dave Higgs ZS2DH/R, 14 949 points
2nd Andrew Gray ZS2G/R, 5 858 points

144,400 and 145,500 MHz FM Divisional Category:
1st Grant Randall, ZS2GT, 70 points
2nd Imo Ferreira, ZS2FF, 30 points

Please note that the complete list of scores and call signs from all the logs will be published on the SARL website and in the QSX newsletter.

Club Log's Most Wanted List

The latest Most Wanted List, generated on 17 February, is available. The information is derived from QSOs uploaded to Club Log (currently 338 million log entries available for analysis) and, to improve quality, only QSOs that have QSLs confirmed are considered to be worked.
https://secure.clublog.org/mostwanted.php.

Antarctic Activity Week

The Worldwide Antarctic Program has announced that the 13th Antarctic Activity Week will be held between 22 and 28 February. The aim of this annual event is to promote worldwide interest in the Antarctic continent. Special call signs (QSL via operator's instructions) are expected to be aired during this year's AAW from the following countries:

Australia - VK2ANT
Austria - OE88WAP, OE89ANT, OE90AAW
Canada - VA3WAP, VA7AAW
France - TM13AAW, TM13WAP
India - AT3ANT
Italy - II1IYBJ, II2ANT, II3BOVE, II5ANT, II6ANT, II8POLE, IP2ANT, IR1ANT, IR1SP, IR2A, IR5ANT, IR7IPY
Reunion Island - TO1TAAF
Spain - AO3ANT, AO4HAG, AO5WAP, EG1PAA, EG5WAP, EH5WAP
Switzerland - HB9ICE
The Netherlands - PA6ANT, PG16ANT
Ukraine - EM20UASAV
USA - K4A, K4K

February

2 - World Wetland's Day
7 - AWA CW Activity Day
10 - Ash Wednesday
13 and 14 - SARL National Field Day; CQ WW WPX RTTY Contest
14 - SARL Youth Net at 15:00 UTC; Valentine's Day
15 - Closing date for the PEARS VHF/UHF logs
20 - SARL Youth Sprint
24 - Closing date for March Radio ZS articles
27 - West Rand ARC Flea Market
27 - National Milk Tart Day
28 - SARL Digital Contest
29 – The Leap Year Challenge

March

5 and 6 – Buffalo City Hobby and Craft Expo, East London
6 – SARL Hamnet 40 m Simulated Emergency Contest
18 – All schools close
19 and 20 – SARL VHF/UHF Field Day
20 – Autumn equinox, Palm Sunday
21 – Human Rights Day
22 - Closing date for April Radio ZS articles; World Water Day
23 - World Meteorological Say
24 - Purim
25 – Good Friday
26 – Two Oceans Marathon
27 - Easter Sunday
28 – Easter Monday / Family Day

Complete information on the Antarctic Activity Week can be found at www.waponline.it.

FT4JA – Juan de Nova 2016

Last month, we reached a milestone with the shipment by sea of our equipment, which marks a definite point of no return for the project both for logistical and financial support. Each element has been extensively tested in real conditions in order to overcome any bad surprise, then conditioned to simplify its installation. In total, just over 1 200 kg of equipment are engaged in this adventure, complemented by what is brought by the 10 operators reaching a total of almost 1,5 tons. Departure for Juan de Nova is expected on 26 March.
http://www.juandenovadx.com/en/equipment/

Now that we have secured the hardware side, it is imperative to make sure we keep the announced objectives:
– Provide to the greatest number a contact with Juan de Nova, especially for an ATNO
– Special attention to the hard-to-reach zones
– Special efforts on the low bands

To do this we have carefully looked at the propagation conditions. These will of course be updated closer to the departure to maximize them. For Tromelin, they had proved fairly accurate, even for short openings LP and other peculiarities. A schedule such as this one (http://www.juandenovadx.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Planning-FT4JA.pdf) will be displayed in front of each station and will be the score to play for the operators. Not surprisingly, the areas under the best conditions will be Europe and Japan followed by the east coast of the US and Oceania. To conclude, the most difficult area to work will be the west coast of the US. We will follow these schedules so as not to miss any opening, with priority for those benefiting from shorter openings. This is what we announced and this is what we will do. We rely also on the cooperation of all of you.

We invite you to send now your information to the pilot station dedicated to your area. There is still time to make the necessary adjustments. Once there, our pilots will be the only contact persons. We will be sent daily compilations of your comments to adjust our operation if need be.

Finally, let us remind you that the band plan coordinated with VK0EK is available on our website. The success of these two concurrent projects will rely on your understanding of this band plan and how you stick to it. http://www.juandenovadx.com/en/band-plan/

Only one thing has changed since our initial announcement: we will have seven stations instead of six, which you will admit, is a good thing except for our sleep!

Thank you to all those who continue to support us through a donation. It is important that the mobilization continues. Remember that all donations above or equal to €/$25 will allow you to receive the QSL card direct automatically. Our efforts to reduce the budget are important. However, wishing to offer a service worthy of the event, the expenses that we face remain very high. http://www.juandenovadx.com/en/how-to-help-us/

A forthcoming communication, a few days before departure, will detail the practical aspects, such as real-time monitoring, online log, OQRS, QSL manager. Until then, you have a few weeks to prepare your antennas and your station! We are very busy on a daily basis to deal with different topics. Stress steadily increases, but not as much as the motivation, that drives our team! http://www.juandenovadx.com

African DX

Mozambique, C9. Arkady, UA4CC, and Arunas, LY2IJ, will be active as C92CC
and C91IJ, respectively, from Mozambique between 28 February and 7 March. Activity will be
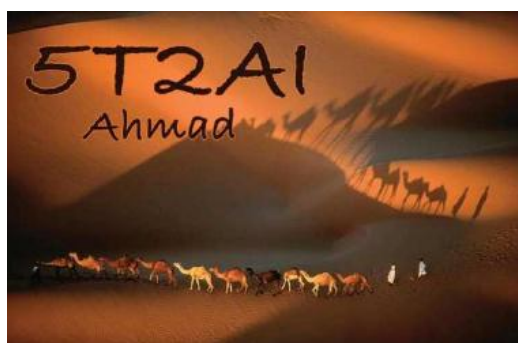
on the HF bands but with focus on the low bands. QSL C91CC via UA4CC, ClubLog's OQRS or LoTW. QSL C91IJ via LY2IJ, ClubLog's OQRS or LoTW.

Swaziland, 3DA. Arkady, UA4CC, and Arunas, LY2IJ will be active as 3DA0CC and 3DA0IJ, respectively, from Mozambique between 8 and 15 March. Activity will be on the HF bands but with focus on the low bands. QSL 3DA0CC via UA4CC, ClubLog's OQRS or LoTW. QSL 3DA0IJ via LY2IJ, ClubLog's OQRS or LoTW.

Uganda 5X. Alan, G3XAQ, will once again be active as 5X1XA from a new QTH between 4 and 16 March. Activity is usually on 80 to 10 metres CW only, but his primary focus will be on the RSGB Commonwealth (BERU) Contest (12 and 13 March). QSL via G3SWH, OQRS or LoTW.

Angola, D2. Paulo, CT1ITE, is now active as D2/CT1ITE from Luanda until the end of March. Activity will be limited to spare time on 80 - 10 metres (possibly 160 m) using CW and SSB. QSL via his home call sign.

Mauretania, 5T. Ahmad, 9K2AI, will be active from Mauretania for the coming two to three years with the call 5T2AI. So far he uses an IC-7000, dipoles and soon a yagi. QSL via NI5DX.

African Islands
IOTA frequencies
CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz
SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

Sao Tome Island, S9, AF-023. Bruno, HB9BEI, is going to operate holiday-style from Sao Tome between 25 Feb and 7 March and again from 12 to 24 March as S9BK. He will be active on 40 – 10 m on SSB and digital modes. The call is not confirmed at this stage. QSL via HB9BEI direct or via the bureau
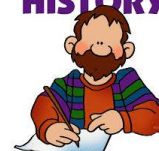
Principe Island S9, AF-044. Between 7 and 12 March, Bruno will be active from Principe Island, also signing S9BK. QSL via HB9BEI direct or via the bureau.

Check your microphone and compression levels
The ARRL DX Phone contest is coming up the weekend of 5 March. The conditions for the CW contest (just completed) were pretty darned good and there will be plenty of DX stations to work. Beforehand, how about checking your microphone and compression levels of your transmit audio, to ensure that it's accomplishing your goals? If you've changed headsets or microphones, if you've changed your shack's acoustics, if you are using higher power than previously, even if you've changed your power supply for your rig, you may need to adjust the microphone gain levels and amount of compression that you're using, to ensure minimum distortion and maximum effectiveness. Some rig manufacturers supply detailed instructions on how to adjust their equipment, while others leave you to fend for yourself. Jim Brown, K9YC, has written an article for the March/April 2016 issue of *NCJ* entitled, "Clean, Punchy, Competitive Contest Audio Without Splatter," which pretty much sums up everything that you should hope to achieve http://www.arrl.org/intranet/nledit/ncjweb.com.

Additionally, AB4OJ/VA7OJ has a web page on the general procedure to adjust for more "talk power" if you have a minimum of test equipment - a power meter and receiver http://www.ab4oj.com/icom/ssbcomp.html.

This week in History

(The week starting 22 February 2016)

1066 - Westminster Abbey, the most famous church in England, opens its doors (28 Feb)
1732 - George Washington (1732 - 1799) was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia. (22 Feb)
1582 - Pope Gregory XIII corrected mistakes on the Julian calendar by dropping 10 days and directing that the day after 4 October 1582 would be 15 October. The Gregorian, or New Style calendar, was then adopted by Catholic countries, followed gradually by Protestant and other nations. (24 Feb)
1685 - George Fredrick Handel, German composer born in Halle in Germany (23 Feb)
1786 - Wilhelm Carl Grimm, compiler, with his brother of fairy tales, born (24 Feb)
1802 - Victor Hugo, French novelist and poet (Les Misérables) born (26 Feb)
1829 - Levi Strauss, creator of blue jeans born (26 Feb)
1836 - Samuel Colt patents the first revolving cylinder multi-shot firearm (25 Feb)
1846 - American frontiersman "Buffalo Bill" Cody (1846-1917) was born in Scott County, Indiana. (26 Feb)
1848 - The Communist Manifesto pamphlet was published by two young socialists, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. It advocated the abolition of all private property and a system in which workers own all means of production, land, factories and machinery. (26 Feb)
1854 - Great Britain officially recognizes the independence of the Orange Free State (23 Feb)
1857 - Lord Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scout Movement (22 Feb)
1857 - Heinrich Hertz, German physicist, the first person to broadcast and receive radio waves (22 Feb)
1873 - Enrico Caruso, Italian opera tenor born (25 Feb)
1879 - Frank Winfield Woolworth's 'nothing over five cents' shop opens at Utica, New York. It is the first chain store (22 Feb)
1889 – Lady Olave Baden-Powell, Chief Guide of the World and wife to Robert Baden-Powell (22 Feb)
1900 - After a 119-day siege by the Boers, the British troops in Ladysmith, South Africa, are relieved (28 Feb)
1972 - Soviets recover Luna 20 with a cargo of moon rocks (26 Feb)

The N3FJP logging program

The N3FJP logging program is growing an API (Application Programming Interface)! Starting in February 2016, functionality that will enable other programs to "talk" to the N3FJP logging program will start to be incorporated in the software. Initial functionality includes the ability to get/set text entry fields, get/set the frequency, band, mode, log a contact, check for dupes and more http://www.n3fjp.com/help/api.html. See the N3JFP website for more information http://www.n3fjp.com/.

Word to the Wise - Gin Pole

A device that is temporarily installed on a tower to lift tower sections, masts, antennas and other items. It typically consists of a pulley atop a hollow pole. At the opposite end of the

pole from the pulley is a clamp or other device that allows attachment to the tower. A rope or cable goes from the load, over the pulley and through the pole. K7NV provides a nice diagram of gin pole use on his website http://k7nv.com/notebook/id7.htm.

A raccoon climbed nearly 700 feet up a Toronto tower and then back down. Unassisted. Social media has made the critter famous. Perhaps she can be trained as a tower work assistant. https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2015/04/16/raccoon-climbs-200-metres-up-toronto-crane.html

Operating Tip

Convert those Cut Numbers

In the recent ARRL International DX Contest, some CW operators were sending cut numbers, which are shorter letter abbreviations for numbers. For example, for a power level of 99 watts, "NN" could be sent. For 100, "1TT", or even "ATT". Before submitting your log, it is prudent to convert these to the numeric equivalent. If a cut number is entered for the zone, your logging program may not even accept it.

Building antennas for higher frequencies may require bending aluminium rod. A tool that you can build yourself may be helpful for consistent bends. http://www.instructables.com/id/Large-Wire-Bender/

Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 15 to 22 February 2016

CQC Winter QSO Party
01:00 - 02:59 UTC 22 February
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20 m
Classes: (none)
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: Member: RST, state, province or country and serial no
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO Bonus: 5 points per QSO with W0CQC or N0CQC
Multipliers: Each state, province or country once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 23 March 2016
E-mail logs to: vkumagai@q.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.coloradogrpclub.org/contests/winter16.htm

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest
02:00 - 04:00 UTC 22 February

Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Band; All Band
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, member no or power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 3 points per QSO with member on same continent; 5 points per QSO with member on different continent
Multipliers: Each state, province or country once; Multiply mults by 2 if >50 members worked
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 28 February 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at:
http://fpqrp.org/pigrun/autolog.php
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://fpqrp.org/pigrun/

SKCC Sprint

00:00 - 02:00 UTC 24 February
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: (none)
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and SKCC no or power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; Bonus Points: 5 points per Centurion member QSO per band; 10 points per Tribune member QSO per band; 25 points per QSO with SKCC club call (K9SKC) per band
Multipliers: Each state, province or country once
Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 26 February 2016
E-mail log summary to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/submit-display.php
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/

QRP Fox Hunt
02:00 - 03:30 UTC 24 February
Mode: CW
Bands: 40 m Only
Classes: Single Op - fox or hound
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 25 February 2016
E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

Phone Fray
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 24 February
Mode: SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 26 February 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rules.pdf

CWops Mini-CWT Test
13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 24 February and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 25 February
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each call once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 27 February 2016
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html

UKEICC 80 m Contest
20:00 - 21:00 UTC 24 February
Mode: CW
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: Single Op Connected - high, low or QRP; Single Op Unconnected - high, low or QRP
Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: 4-Character grid square
QSO Points: 1 point per 500 km; multiply QSO points by 2 if low power station; multiply QSO points by 4 if QRP station
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 22:00 UTC 24 February 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at: http://logs.ukeicc.com/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.ukeicc.com/which-contest/contest-rules/ukeicc-80m-contests-rules

NCCC RTTY Sprint
01:45 - 02:15 UTC 26 February
Mode: RTTY
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 28 February 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: http://www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html

QRP Fox Hunt
02:00 - 03:30 UTC 26 February
Mode: CW
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: Single Op - fox or hound
Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 27 February 2016
E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

NCCC Sprint Ladder
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 26 February
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7 and KH6) once per band; Each VE province once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 28 February 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: http://www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

CQ 160-Meter SSB Contest
22:00 UTC 26 February to 22:00 UTC 28 February
Mode: SSB
Bands: 160 m Only
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high; Single Op Assisted - high; Multi-Op - high
Max operating hours: Single Op: 30 hours; Multi-Op: 40 hours
Max power: HP: >150 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: W/VE: RS and (state/province)
DX: RS and CQ Zone
QSO Points: 2 points per QSO with own country; 5 points per QSO with other countries on same continent; 10 points per QSO with other continents; 5 points per QSO with maritime mobile
Multipliers: Each US state and DC (excluding KH6/KL7); Each VE province; Each DXCC and WAE country (including KH6/KL7)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 22:00 UTC 4 March 2016
E-mail logs to: 160ssb@kkn.net
Mail logs to: CQ 160 Meter Contest, 25 Newbridge Road, Hicksville, NY 11801, USA
Find rules at:
http://www.cq160.com/rules.htm

REF SSB Contest
06:00 UTC 27 February to 18:00 UTC 28 February
Mode: SSB
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Band - QRP, low or high; Single Op Single Band - QRP, low or high; Multi-Single - QRP, low or high; Club; SWL
Max operating hours: Single Op: 28 hours in no more than three increments of at least 1 hour each
Max power: HP: >100 Watts; LP: 100 Watts; QRP: 5 Watts
Exchange: French: RS and Department/Prefix non-French: RS and serial no
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: French: 6 points per QSO with French station same continent; French: 15 points per QSO with French station on dif-

ferent continent; French: 1 point per QSO with non-French station same continent; French: 2 points per QSO with non-French station on different continent; non-French: 1 point per QSO with French station same continent; non-French: 3 points per QSO with French station on different continent
Multipliers: French/Corsica departments once per band; French overseas prefixes once per band; non-French DXCC countries once per band (available only to French stations)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 15 March 2016
E-mail logs to: cdfssb@ref-union.org
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://concours.ref-un-ion.org/reglements/actuels/reg_cdfhf_dx.pdf

UBA DX CW Contest
13:00 UTC 27 February to 13:00 UTC 28 February
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Band - low or high; Single Op Single Band - low or high; Single Op QRP; Multi-Op; SWL
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: ON: RST, serial no and province; non-ON: RST and serial no
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 10 points per QSO with Belgian station; 3 points per QSO with other EU stations; 1 point per QSO with non-EU stations
Multipliers: Each Belgian province once per band; Each Belgian prefix once per band; Each EU DXCC country once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 13 March 2016
E-mail logs to: ubacw@uba.be
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules/uba-dx-contest-rules

South Carolina QSO Party

14:00 UTC 27 February to 00:59 UTC 28 February

Mode: CW, Digital, Phone

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m

Classes: Single Op Fixed CW, SSB, digital or mixed - QRP, low or high; Multi-Single Fixed CW, SSB, digital or mixed - QRP, low or high; Multi-Multi Fixed CW, SSB, digital or mixed - QRP, low or high; Mobile-Single CW, SSB, digital or mixed - QRP, low or high; Mobile-Multi CW, SSB, digital or mixed - QRP, low or high

Max power: HP: >100 W; LP: 100 W; QRP: 5 W

Exchange: SC: RS(T) and county; non-SC: RS(T) and state, province or DX

Work stations: Once per band per mode per county

QSO Points: 1 point per phone QSO; 2 points per CW or Digital QSO

SC stations contacting non-SC stations earn double QSO points; Bonus: 500 points per QSO with W4CAE; 350 points per QSO with WW4SF; 350 points per QSO with N4HLH

Multipliers: SC: Each SC county, US state (including DC) and VE province/territory once per mode non-SC: Each SC county once per mode

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and Bonus Points

Submit logs by: 29 March 2016

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at: http://scqso.com/log-submission/

Mail logs to: SCQSO Party; PO Box 595, Columbia, SC 29202-0595, USA

Find rules at: http://scqso.com/rules/

North American RTTY QSO Party

18:00 UTC 27 February to 05:59 UTC 28 February

Mode: RTTY

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op – QRP or low; Multi-Two - low

Max operating hours: Single Op: 10 hours; Multi-Two: 12 hours

Max power: LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 05:59 UTC 6 March 2016

Upload log at: http://www.ncjweb.com/naqplogsubmit/

Mail logs to: Mark Aaker, K6UFO, 300 Berry St., Unit 1009, San Francisco, CA 94158-1668, USA

Find rules at: http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf

High Speed Club CW Contest

09:00 – 11:00 UTC 28 February and 15:00 – 17:00 UTC 28 February

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: HSC Members; Non-Members; QRP; SWL

Max power: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: Members: RST and HSC no; non-Members: RST and "NM"

Work stations: Once per band per period

QSO Points: 5 points per QSO with a HSC member; 1 points per QSO with a non-member

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 20 March 2016

E-mail logs to: joe@dl4cf.com

Mail logs to: Joe Vollbrecht, DL4CF, HSC Contest Manager, Steingasse 3, D-06642 Nebra, Germany

Find rules at: http://www.highspeedclub.org/

SARL Digital Contest

13:00 - 16:00 UTC 28 February

Mode: PSK, RTTY

Bands: 80, 40, 20 m

Classes: (none)
Exchange: RST and QSO no
Work stations: Once per mode per band
QSO Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: (see rules)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 6 March 2016
E-mail logs to: contest@sarl.org.za
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.sarl.org.za/Web3/Members/DoDocDown-load.aspx?X=20151130131559djqp8afPgb.PDF

North Carolina QSO Party
15:00 UTC 28 February to 00:59 UTC 29 February
Mode: CW, Phone, Digital
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2 m
Classes: Single Op – NC or non-NC – CW, phone, digital or mixed - QRP, low or high; NC Mobile Mixed; NC Mobile Lone Ranger Mixed; NC Club Mixed - low or high; NC Club Phone; NC County Expedition Mixed; NC County Expedition Mixed QRP
Max power: HP: >150 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts CW or dig/10 watts phone
Exchange: NC: County; non-NC: state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band per mode
QSO Points: 2 points per phone QSO; 3 points per CW QSO; 3 points per digital QSO
Bonus Points: 50 points for at least one QSO with Swain county; 50 points for at least one QSO with Warren county; 50 points for at least one QSO with NI4BK; 50 points for at least one QSO with W4DW; 50 points for at least one QSO with W1VOA; 200 points if all 5 other bonus points worked; Bonus Points for NC Mobiles/Expeditions: 100 points for each county activated
Multipliers: NC stations: Each NC county, state, province, and one DXCC country once; Non-NC stations: Each NC county once
Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points
Submit logs by: 21 March 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at:
http://rars.org/ncqsoparty/index.php?id=logs
Mail logs to: NC QSO Party, c/o Marty Young, W4MY, 209 East D Street, Erwin, NC 28339, USA
Find rules at:
http://rars.org/ncqsoparty/index.php?id=rules

Next Week's Contests

AGCW YL-CW Party, 19:00 - 21:00 UTC 1 March
QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 2 March
Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 2 March
CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 2 March and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 3 March
UKEICC 80 m Contest, 20:00 - 21:00 UTC 2 March
NRAU 10 m Activity Contest, 18:00 - 19:00 UTC (CW), 19:00 - 20:00 UTC (SSB), 20:00 - 21:00 UTC (FM) and 21:00 - 22:00 UTC 3 March (Dig)
NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 4 March
QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 4 March
NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 4 March
ARRL International SSB DX Contest, 00:00 UTC 5 March to 24:00 UTC 6 March
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint 06:00 - 06:29 UTC; 06:30 – 06:59 UTC; 07:00 – 07:29 UTC and 07:30 - 08:00 UTC 5 March

Open Ukraine RTTY Championship, 18:00 UTC-20:59 UTC (Low Band) and 21:00 UTC-23:59 UTC 5 March (Low Band); 08:00 UTC-10:59 UTC (High Band) and 11:00 UTC-13:59 UTC 6 March (High Band)

UBA Spring CW Contest, 07:00 UTC-11:00 UTC 6 March

DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest, 11:00 UTC-17:00 UTC 6 March

SARL Hamnet 40 m Simulated Emergency Contest, 12:00 - 14:00 UTC 6 March

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, Data 20:00 - 21:30 UTC 7 March

ARS Spartan Sprint, 02:00 - 04:00 UTC 8 March

Local Contests

South African Radio League Digital Contest

The aim is to establish as many contacts as possible between radio amateurs in Southern Africa using the PSK31 / RTTY mode(s). The contest is open to all radio amateurs in Southern Africa and will run from 13:00 UTC to 16:00 UTC on Sunday 28 February 2016 with PSK and RTTY on 80 metres (3 580 to 3 600 kHz); 40 metres (7 040 to 7 060 kHz) and 20 metres (14 070 to 14 099 kHz)

A station may be contacted twice on each band once on RTTY, once on PSK31. The exchange is a RST report and a sequential serial number starting at 001. Contacts with stations listed in General Rule 1.b are worth 3 points. Contacts with stations NOT listed in General Rule 1.b are worth 1 point. The first contact with each area listed below will be used as a band multiplier. Area 1: ZS1; Area 2: ZS2; Area 3: ZS3; Area 4: ZS4; Area 5: ZS5; Area 6: ZS6; Area 7: 3DA, 7P, 7Q, 9J, C9, A2, D2, V5, Z2, ZD7, ZD9, ZS7, ZS8, FR, 3B8, 5R, FH and D6 and Area 8: Stations in the rest of the world.

Scoring. Band total = QSO points X number of call areas worked per band. The final score =sum of the band totals. Logs, in ADIF, Cabrillo or MS Excel format and labelled "your call sign Digital Contest," must be submitted by 6 March 2016, e-mail to contest@sarl.org.za

South African Radio League Hamnet 40 m Simulated Emergency Contest

This SSB contest, which takes place from 12:00 to 14:00 UTC on Sunday 6 March 2016, is open to all Radio Amateurs in South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Mozambique, Lesotho, Marion Island and South African Antarctica. Only contacts with these areas will count. It is a phone contest in the band segments 7 063 to 7 100 kHz and 7 130 to 7 200 kHz.

You can participate as a single operator stationary mobile station, a single operator portable station, a multi-operator portable station or a single operator base station. Antennas are limited to antennas with less than unity gain relative to a dipole. Stationary Mobile stations shall use antennas that rely solely on their vehicles for support and shall not exceed a height of 5 metres above ground. Portable station antennas may not be erected and installed before the day of the contest and no permanent manmade structure may be used to either house equipment or for antenna supports. Stationary Mobile and Portable stations shall operate from the same site for the duration of the contest and all power used shall comply with the requirements for Field Stations in the general rules.

The exchange is a signal report followed by a three-figure number as follows - Category a: Starting with 201 for the first contact; Category b: Starting with 401 for the first contact; Category c: Starting with 601 for the first contact; Category d: Starting with 801 for the first contact and Non-participants start with 001 for the first contact

Scoring consists of points accumulated from all contacts, multiplied by a multiplier. Contact with a station in - Category a, b and c in own area 3 points; Category a, b and c in another area 4 points; Category d or non-participant in own area 1 point and Category d or non-

participant in another area 2 points. Areas are as defined in the following list - Area 1: ZS1; Area 2: ZS2; Area 3: ZS3; Area 4: ZS4; Area 5: ZS5; Area 6: ZS6; Area 7 (eastern group): 3DA, 7P, C9, Z2, ZS8 and Area 8 (western group): A2, V5, ZS7

The multiplier consists of the number of call areas worked, multiplied by a power multiplier. The power multiplier is 2 for an output power of over 50 W PEP, and 3 for an output power of less than 50 W PEP.

Log sheets must be submitted by 13 March 2016 by e-mail to contest@peham.co.za or to Hamnet Eastern Cape, Al Akers, ZS2U, 53 Clarence Street, Westering, Port Elizabeth, 6025

Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter